

Workforce & Career Development Division

Director's Corner

Back in December, many of you in the field participated in a survey to collect feedback about the Employment Security's A3, which laid out the strategic direction and division action plans. Thank you so much for participating.

Earlier this month, I, along with the other members of the agency's Executive Leadership Team (ELT), met for two days to review the current A3 and the survey results. The A3 has been modified, a draft of which will be sent out for review in February. I want to encourage each of you to review the new draft and provide your input. The final version is expected out in late February.

WCDD will have a chance to review the current division A3 to ensure our priorities for 2015 are aligned properly with the agency's goals. In this time of change, we want to be sure our precious resources—whether time, space or money—direct our best work into projects and activities that help the agency meet its goals.

I want to thank you again for stepping up, participating and being open to new ways of doing our important work. The Lean efforts you've undertaken in your local areas, and the coordination activities underway with partners, really reflect your adaptability, resilience and creativity, and the dedication you have to the citizens of our state.

~Sandy Miller

Temporary Office Move Provides Chance for Field Visits

A temporary workspace dislocation for the staff of Workforce & Career Development Central Office (WCDD CO) is providing a great opportunity for staff to visit WorkSource offices around the state. For the next three weeks, WCDD CO's workspace on the fourth floor of the Employment Security Department's Maple Park headquarters building in Olympia is being reconfigured and outfitted with new modular furniture to facilitate cross-functionality among staff and programs. Beginning this week, WCDD CO employees will get a chance to visit many different WorkSource offices, kicking off with WorkSource Auburn and WorkSource Lakewood Affiliate. Staff will go to listen, learn, observe and engage with WorkSource staff. In between visits, most staff will be housed on the third floor of the Maple Park building. While field visits are a normal part of WCDD CO business, this series of visits provides staff a chance to test out some new tools to enhance coordination and consistency for future visits.

WorkSource Integrated Technology Project Newsletter Launched

Employment Security's Communications department has launched a new bi-weekly newsletter, Go2News, to keep WorkSource staff, partners and other interested parties informed about the progress of the Go2WorkSource/SKIES replacement project, formally named WorkSource Integrated Technology (WIT). To subscribe to the newsletter, visit <http://go2worksourcenews.com> and submit your e-mail address in the Follow box on the right side of the page.

New Workforce Policy Director Appointed

Gary Kamimura was recently appointed to succeed Amy Smith as Workforce Policy Director in the Employment System Administration and Policy Unit (which is part of the Employment System Policy and Integrity Operations Division). In the interim, the teams he oversaw as program administrator within the Workforce and Career Development Division are under new supervision. Alberto Isiordia will lead the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) teams, and Nona Mallicoat will supervise the WorkFirst, Rapid Response and Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) staff. An updated WCDD CO organizational chart will be released soon.

BFET Program Funding Available

On Monday, January 26th, WCDD CO hosted a webinar for WorkSource office administrators to introduce the Washington State Basic Food Employment and Training (BFET) program and gauge interest in becoming a service provider. Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) operates BFET in collaboration with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), partnering with 27 community-based organizations (CBOs) and 34 community and technical colleges around the state. BFET participants are those who receive Basic Food Assistance exceed the income threshold for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Services include employability assessments, case management, job readiness training, basic skills/ESL training, vocational training and job search assistance, among others.

Applications are due to DSHS in April for agencies or organizations interested in becoming a BFET provider through the Resources to Initiate Successful Employment (RISE) pilot program. Currently, there is a much greater need than capacity; some counties have no providers at all. WCDD CO encourages all WorkSource administrators to touch bases with WDC and other partners to determine interest. To learn more, view the maps where services are offered and needed, and to find contact information for questions about the program or application process, you can view the webinar's [PowerPoint slide deck](#) on Inside WorkSource.

New Fidelity Bonding Program Flyer Available to Order

The Fidelity Bonding Program has an updated flyer available to order in both English and Spanish through Office Depot File Cabinet service. This flyer can be displayed near the front desk at WorkSource offices, or provided to interested employers during outreach activities. If you're interested in using the flyer, be sure to connect with the Office Depot representative in your office.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit Receives Extension

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), which expired on December 31, 2013 has been extended for one year, 2014 only, with retroactive provision to January 1, 2014 through the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014.

WOTC is a federal tax incentive program for employers to hire applicants from specific target groups that normally have greater difficulty finding employment. An employer who is willing to hire and retain a potentially eligible job applicant from one of these groups only needs to complete two forms and submit the information to ESD, possibly saving the company between \$2,400 and \$9,600 on federal taxes.

During 2014, while WOTC was in hiatus, Washington's WOTC unit received over 70,000 applications through the online filing system from employers who hired potentially eligible job applicants. WOTC applications for certification must be submitted within 28 days from a new employee job start date. For this reason, states continued accept applications under the directive of US Department of Labor during the hiatus. Although WOTC went into hiatus again in 2015, it is important for employers submit applications in a timely manner if they are interested in reducing their federal tax liabilities.

WA WOTC went online in October 2012. All applications requesting certification must be submitted online now. The automation project is expanding to eligibility determination areas. In December 2014, automation to determine first-time hire using NGTS was implemented. The next step is to automate eligibility for TANF and SNAP recipients through an interface with DSHS data. When it is completed, anticipated in Spring 2015, employers submitted applications for 2014 hires will receive certification, enabling them to claim tax credits through the IRS.

You can learn more about WOTC at <http://www.esd.wa.gov/wotc>.

New Policy Guidance

[WIN 0064](#)—OMB Super Circular

February 2015 Featured Events

None this month.



Please send us your feedback!

We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you'd like to see, or send us an article about something important to you! E-mail us at ESDGPWCDDTST@esd.wa.gov.